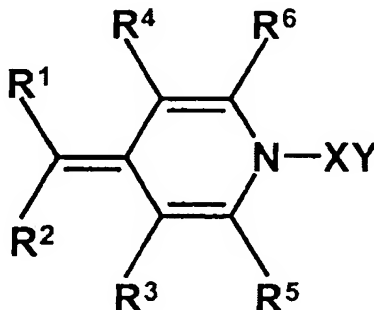


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): Compounds of the general formula I



wherein

R^1 and R^2 are identical or different electron-withdrawing groups or one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 and R^2 is an electron-withdrawing group,

R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen atoms, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl groups, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl groups, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl groups, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl groups or C_6 - C_{10} aryl groups, the above groups being unsubstituted or optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups, halogen, hydroxy and C_1 - C_6 alkoxy groups, or R^3 and R^5 and/or R^4 and R^6 taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered ring which is optionally substituted with one to four substituents

selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl groups,
C₁-C₆ alkoxy groups, hydroxy or halogen,

X is a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group which is positively or negatively charged and

Y is a counterion.

2. (Original): Compound according to claim 1, wherein X is an alkyl, alkylaryl or alkyl cycloalkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group which is positively or negatively charged.

3. (Original): Compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a C₁-C₁₀ alkylene group containing optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group which is positively or negatively charged.

4. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein X contains 1 to 6 hetero atoms.

5. (Original): Compound according to claim 4, wherein the hetero atoms are selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and phosphor atoms.

6. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the group which is positively or negatively charged has one positive charge.

7. (Original): Compound according to claim 6, wherein the group which has one positive charge is a quaternary ammonium group.

8. (Original): Compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is a halogen atom.

9. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the group which is positively or negatively charged has one negative charge.

10. (Original): Compound according to claim 9, wherein the group which has one negative charge is selected from a group consisting of -COO^- , -O-SO_3^- and -O-P(=O)(OH)_2 .

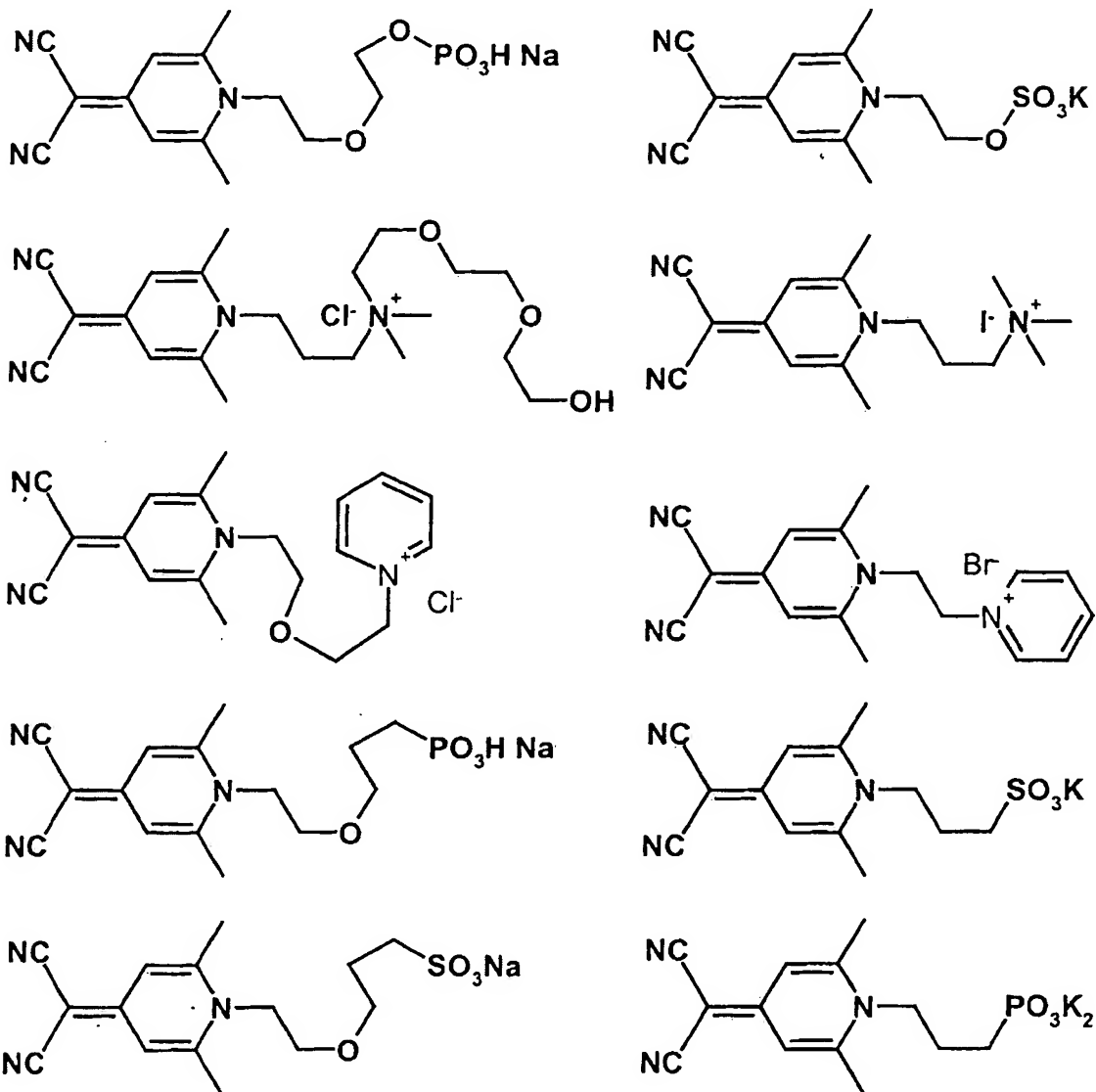
11. (Original): Compound according to claim 10, wherein Y is an alkaline metal atom, an earth alkaline metal atom, a triethanol ammonium ion, an aminomethylpropanol ion or a tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane ion.

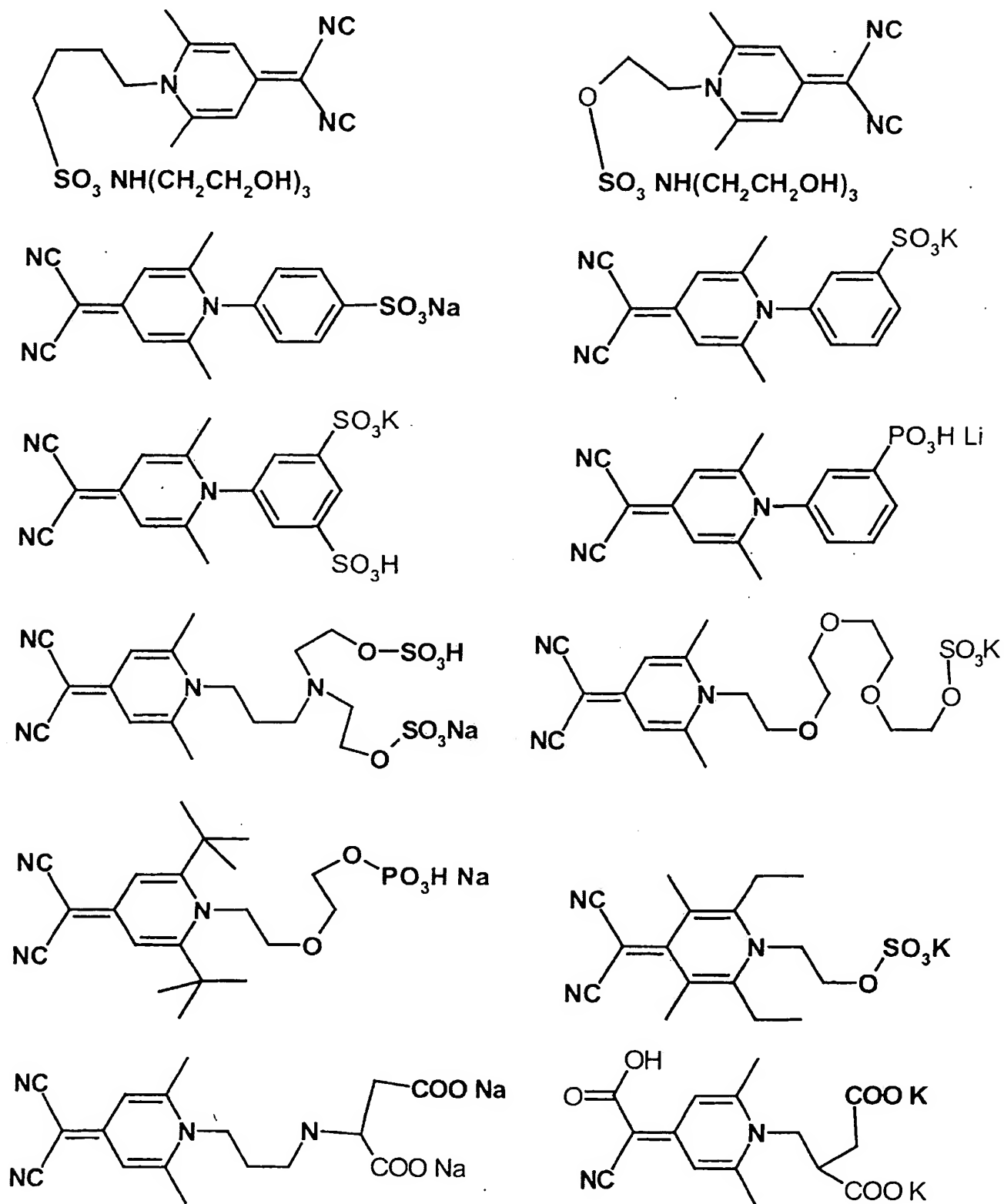
12. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein residue R^3 and R^4 are each hydrogen atoms.

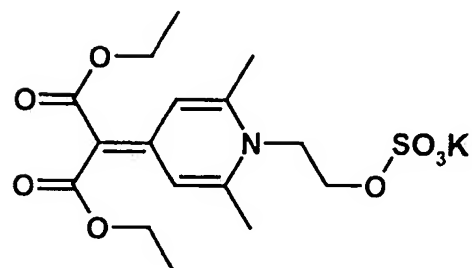
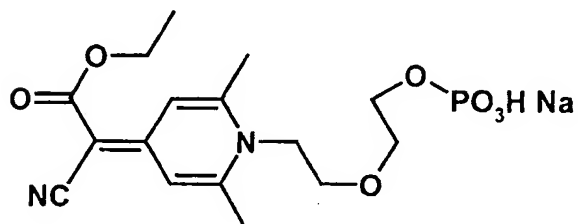
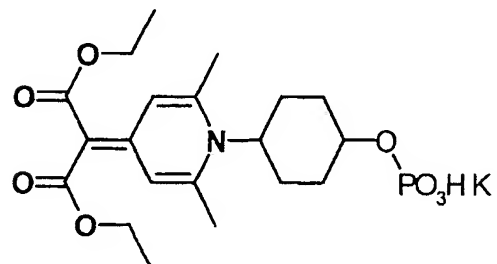
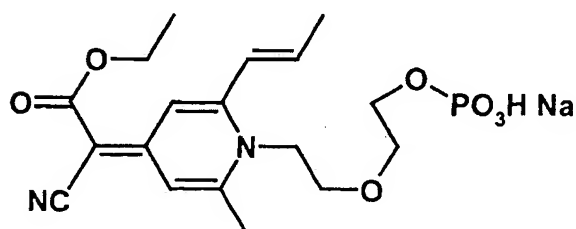
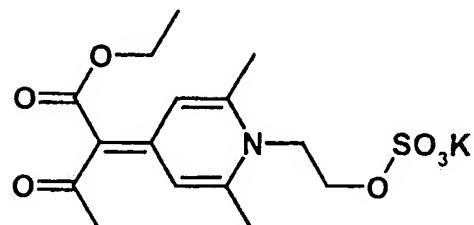
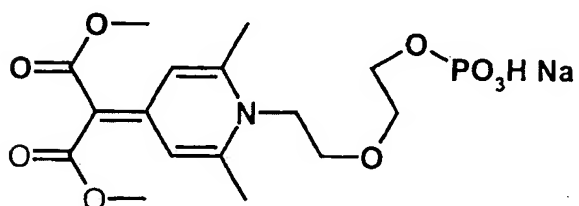
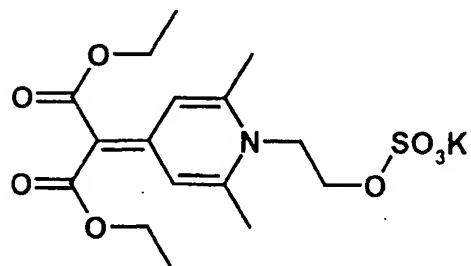
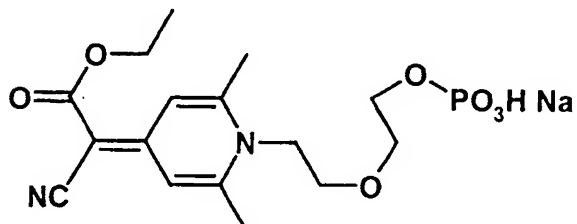
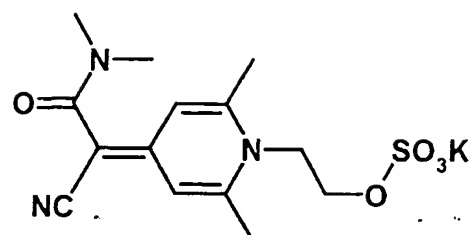
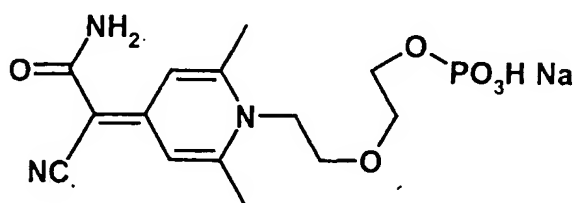
13. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein residues R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen atoms and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl groups.

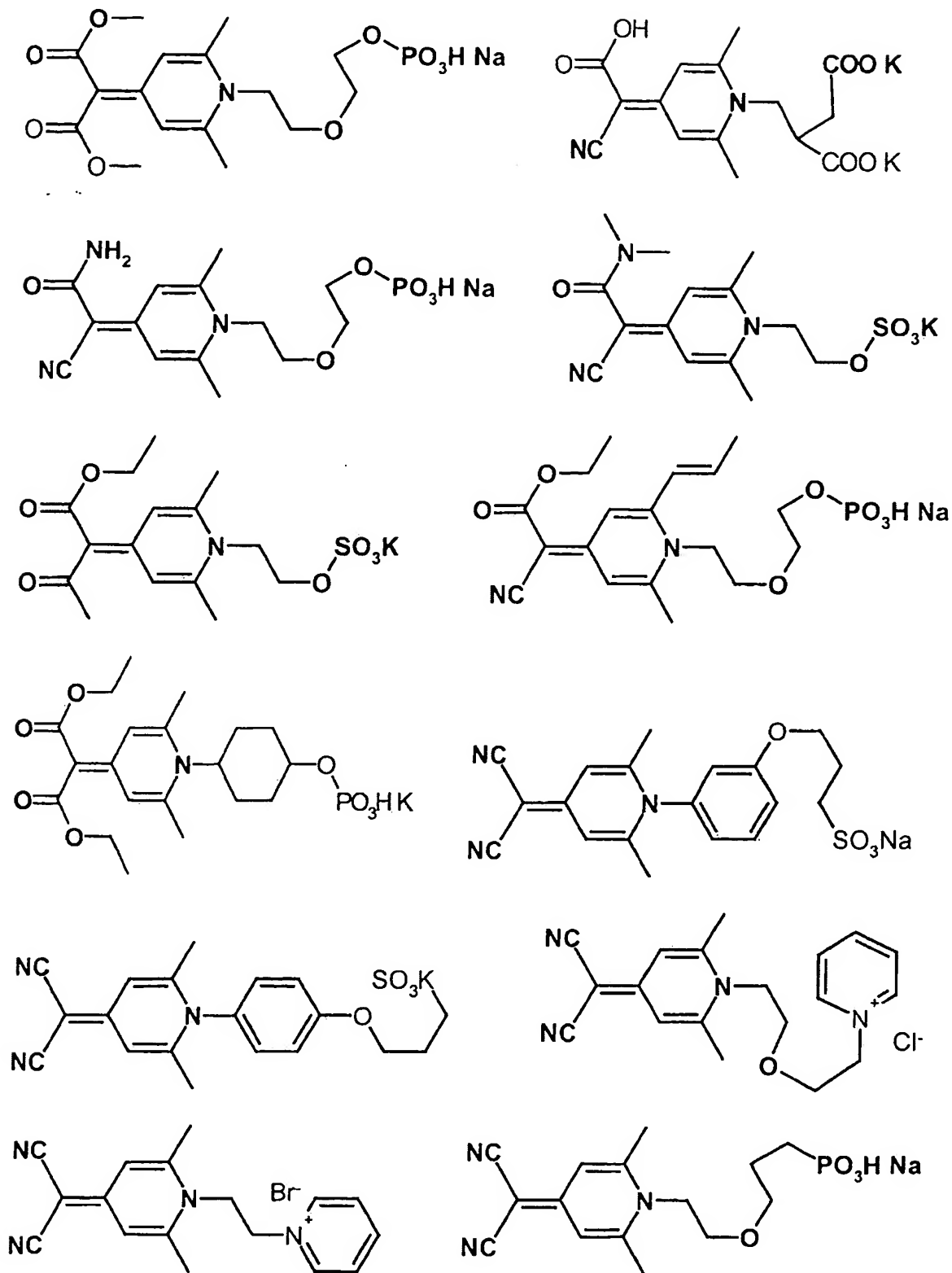
14. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein residues R^1 and R^2 are both cyano groups.

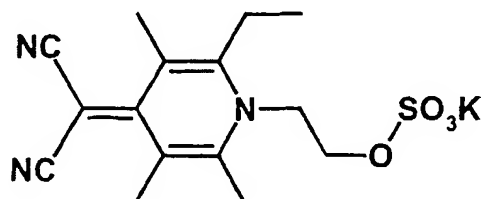
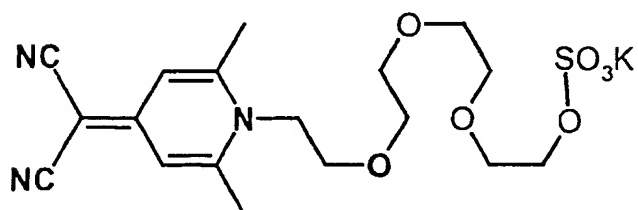
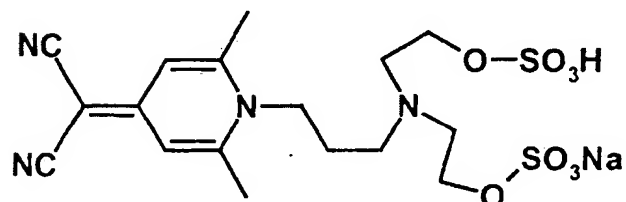
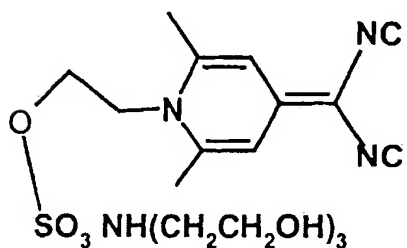
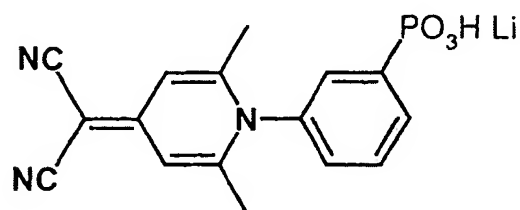
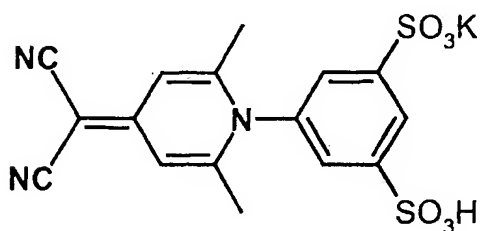
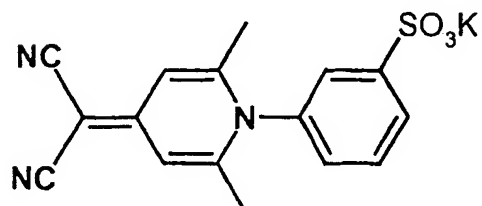
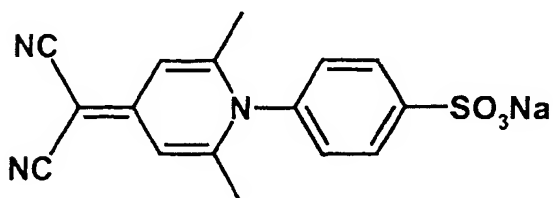
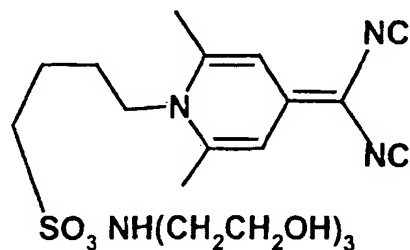
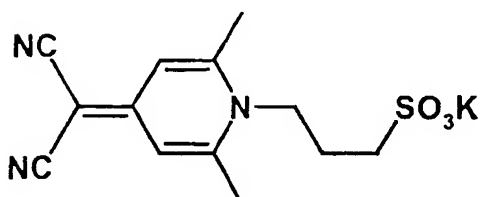
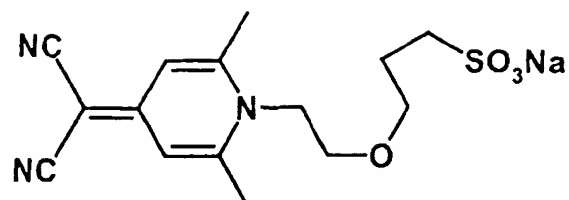
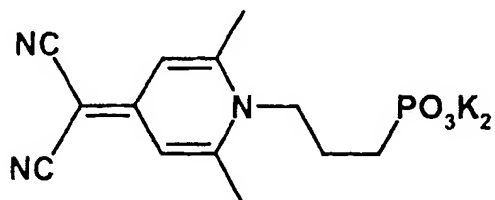
15. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1, namely
selected from the group consisting of:

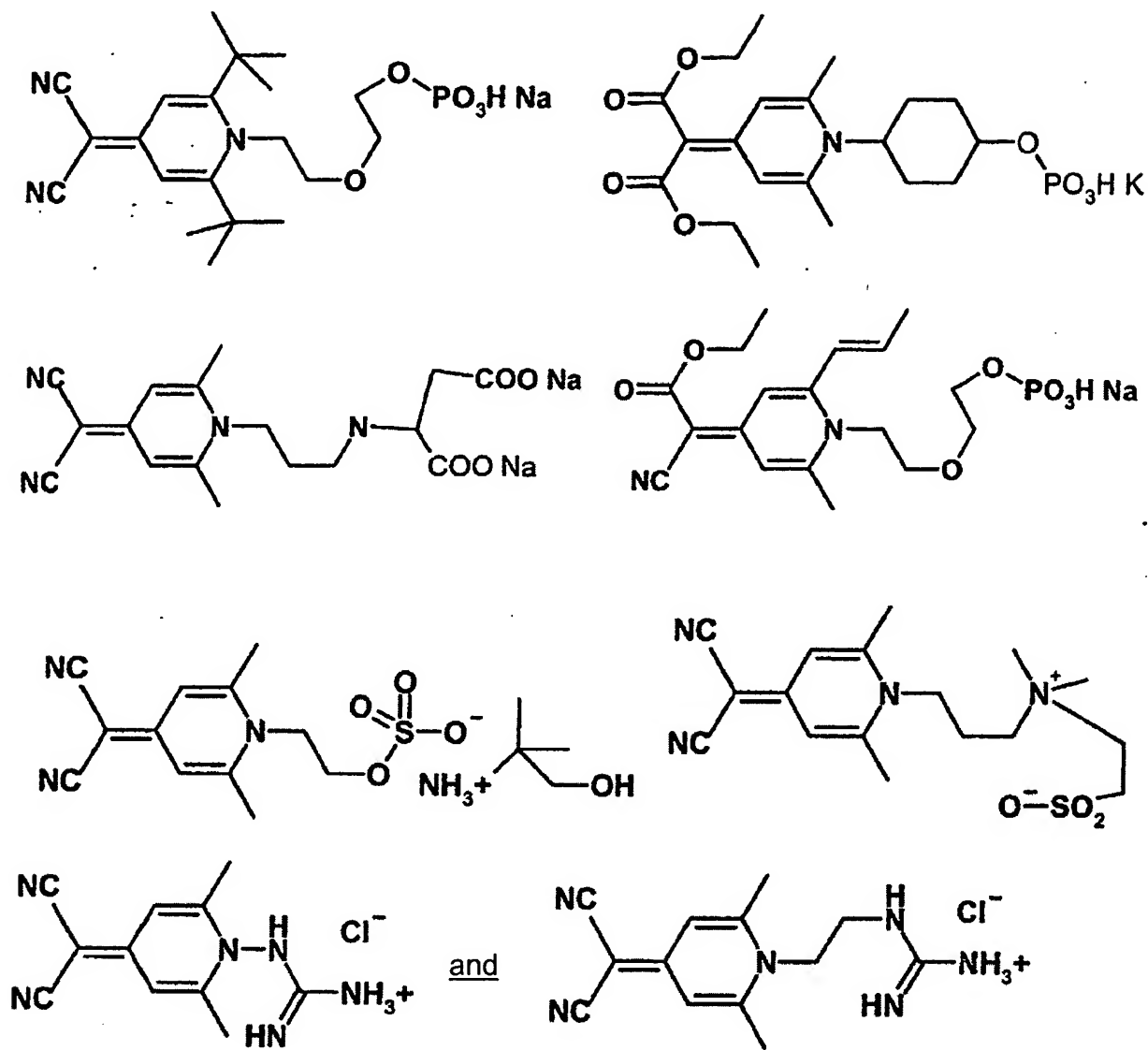












16. (Currently amended): UV-A screening composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~as defined in any of claims 1 to 15.~~

17. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 16, which is a cosmetic composition for protecting skin or hair against UV-A radiation.

18. (Currently amended): UV-A screening composition according to claim 16 ~~or~~ 17, comprising one or more additional sunscreens selected from the group consisting of a micronised pigment and a polymeric UV-sunscreen.

19. UV-A screening composition according to claim 18, wherein the micronised pigment is microparticulated TiO_2 of a particle size of about 5 nm to about 200 nm.

20. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 18, wherein the polymeric UV-sunscreen is an organosiloxane.

21. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 20, wherein the organosiloxane is an organosiloxane which contains benzmalonate groups.

22. (Canceled).